Hydrogeologic Framework of the Floridan Aquifer System in Florida and in Parts of Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina

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FOREWORD

The Regional Aquifer-System Analysis Program

The Regional Aquifer-System Analysis (RASA) program was begun in 1978 after a congressional mandate to develop quantitative appraisals of the major ground-water systems of the United States. The RASA program represents a systematic effort to study a number of the Nation's most important aquifer systems, which, in aggregate, underlie much of the country and which represent important components of the Nation's total water supply. In general, the boundaries of these studies are identified by the hydrologic extent of each system and thus transcend the political subdivisions to which investigations have often been arbitrarily limited in the past. The broad objectives for each study are to assemble geologic, hydrologic, and geochemical information, to analyze and develop an understanding of the system, and to develop predictive capabilities that will contribute to effective management of the system. The use of computer simulation is an important element of the RASA studies, both to develop an understanding of the natural, undisturbed hydrologic system and of any changes brought about by human activities, and to provide a means of predicting the regional effects of future pumping or other stresses.

The final interpretive results of the RASA program are presented in a series of U.S. Geological Survey Professional Papers describing the geology, hydrology, and geochemistry of each regional aquifer system. Each study within the RASA program is assigned a single Professional Paper number; where the volume of interpretive material warrants, separate topical chapters dealing with the principal elements of the investigation may be published. The series of RASA interpretive reports begins with Professional Paper 1400 and will continue in numerical sequence as the results of subsequent studies become available.

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